

have attempted over the past decades, without success, to completely overhaul our litigation system. S. 96, however, continues to contain provisions that simply appear to transfer Y2K costs from defendants to plaintiffs without equitable cause. The bill provides protections to plaintiffs not afforded defendants, caps punitive damages for bad faith actors, limits joint and several liability for bad faith businesses, prohibits states like Rhode Island from awarding non-economic damages even in instances of fraud, federalizes all class action lawsuits, and fails to distinguish between consumers and large corporations.

Perhaps just as importantly as its substantive problems, the Clinton Administration has threatened a veto of S. 96. With six months until the end of the year, we do not have two, three, or four months to negotiate compromises.

It is my hope that those of us who are truly in support of reforming the current system will prevail in softening some of S. 96's provisions to arrive at legislation that the Administration can and will support. While this will not result in legislation that organizations can use to fuel their drive to overhaul the entire tort system, it will allow us to mitigate Y2K litigation costs while protecting those who have been wronged.

#### COMMENDING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN FOR AID TO KOSOVO

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I bring to the attention of this body the efforts of the Republic of China on Taiwan on behalf of the Kosovar refugees. As a member of the world community committed to protecting and promoting human rights, the Republic of China on Taiwan is deeply concerned about the plight of the Kosovars and hopes to contribute to the reconstruction of their war-torn land. To that end, President Lee Tung-hui announced on June 7, 1999 that Taiwan will grant \$300 million in an aid package to the Kosovars. The aid package will consist of the following:

1. Emergency support for food, shelters, medical care and education, etc. for Kosovar refugees living in exile in neighboring countries.

2. Short-term accommodations for some of the Kosovar refugees in Taiwan with opportunities for job training to enable them to be better equipped for the restoration of their homeland upon their return.

3. Support for the restoration of Kosovo in coordination with international long-term recovery programs once a peace plan is implemented.

I commend the Republic of China on Taiwan for their commitment to humanitarian assistance for these victims of the war in Yugoslavia. Their aid will contribute to the promotion of the

peace plan for Kosovo and will help the refugees return safely to their homes as soon as possible.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 15, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,579,687,074,229.55 (Five trillion, five hundred seventy nine billion, six hundred eighty seven million, seventy four thousand, two hundred twenty-nine dollars and fifty five cents).

One year ago, June 15, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,484,471,000,000 (Five trillion, four hundred eighty four billion, four hundred seventy-one million).

Five years ago, June 15, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,607,232,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred seven billion, two hundred thirty-two million).

Ten years ago, June 15, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,782,363,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred eighty two billion, three hundred sixty-three million).

Fifteen years ago, June 15, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,519,266,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred nineteen billion, two hundred sixty-six million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,060,421,074,229.55 (Four trillion, sixty billion, four hundred twenty-one million, seventy-four thousand, two hundred twenty-nine dollars and fifty-five cents) during the past 15 years.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 17. An act to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to require the President to report to Congress on any selective embargo on agricultural commodities, to provide a termination date for the embargo, to provide greater assurances for contract sanctity, and for other purposes.

H.R. 973. An act to modify authorities with respect to the provision of security assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1000. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 75. Concurrent Resolution condemning the National Islamic Front (NIF) government for its genocidal war in southern Sudan, support for terrorism, and continued human rights violations, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill,

with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1059. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second time by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 973. An act to modify authorities with respect to the provision of security assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1000. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The following concurrent resolution was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 75. Concurrent resolution condemning the National Islamic Front (NIF) government for its genocidal war in southern Sudan, support for terrorism, and continued human rights violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-3630. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened status for the plant *Thelypodium howellii* ssp. *spectabilis* (Howell's spectacular *thelypody*)" (RIN1018-AE52), received June 4, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3631. A communication from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Formal and Informal Adjudicatory Hearing Procedures; Clarification of Eligibility to Participate" (RIN3150-AG27), received June 8, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3632. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference for Florida; Approval of Recodification of the Florida Administrative Code" (FRL # 6352-9), received June 9, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3633. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and